

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	EAS.16
Historic Name:	Knowles, Freeman Elsworth House
Common Name:	
Address:	1150 State Hwy
City/Town:	Eastham
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	18-027
Year Constructed:	r 1890
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Victorian Eclectic
Use(s):	Other Medical; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture; Health Medicine
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard; Wood Shingle; Wood Foundation: Brick



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B - BUILDING

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Assessor's
Number

18/027

USGS Quad

Orleans

Area(s)

Form Number

16

Town

Eastham

(neighborhood or village)

1150 State Highway

ic Name

Present Residential

Original "

Construction Between 1880
and 1900

See Bibliography*

Form Gable-end, side-entry dwelling

ect/Builder

or Material:

Foundation

Brick

Wall/Trim

Clapboard Facade; Shingles
Other Elevations

Roof

Asphalt Shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures Free-
standing, gable-roofed, English barn.

Major Alterations (with dates) See
Architectural Description.

Condition

Fair

Moved X no ___ yes Date

Acreage

1.1 acres

Setting Located in a densely-settled,
mixed-use, but largely residential section
of Route 6, the major, Cape Cod,
inter-community thoroughfare, the former
county road and a continuation of the
original Old King's Highway.

here. Indicate North.



Recorded by: Dianne L. Siergiej

Organization: Commonweal Collaborative

Date: May 1995

RECEIVED

SEP 20 1995

MASS. HIST. COMM.

BUILDING FORM

1150 State Highway

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION See continuation sheet.

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The rectangular, gable-roofed, 3 x 2 bay, gable-end, side-entry, main block of this dwelling has been expanded to the rear with the addition of a 1-story, gable-roofed, rear ell off the northeast corner and a 1-story, hip-roofed projection off the south elevation (see Historical Narrative). This common nineteenth-century house form displays victorian detail in the use of staggered butt facing on the north and south elevations, and Italianate main entry with bracketed hood over the wooden, paneled door with elongated, etched-glass, upper panels. Fenestration consists of primarily of 2/2, double-hung sash with cap molded trim; 2/1, double-hung sash with plain trim is utilized on the side ell. The 2 bays on the second level here are an exception from the common 3-bay configuration common to this house form in Eastham. Louvered blinds are oversized replacements. Remaining detail is limited to end boards, boxed, molded cornice with return and a plain frieze. One chimney is located on the ridge line to the rear of the main block with a secondary stack on the rear ell.

An historical photograph reveals that the between 1924 the early 1930's, the barn replaced several, small, gable-roofed, shingled outbuildings located to the rear of the house.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE X See continuation sheet.

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to title research by Ruth Mayo and Howard Quinn on file at the Eastham Historical Society archives, a deed dated July 24, 1894 transferred this property, subdivided from a larger parcel which belonged to Freeman Knowles (b. October 26, 1821; d. March 17, 1909) to his son, Freeman Elsworth Knowles, for \$1.00. The property was also left to Freeman E. Knowles in the will (Docket No. 15543) of Freeman Knowles. Freeman Knowles, the father, was a seafarer until age 41 at which time he became a farmer who grew asparagus and cranberries among other crops.

The Knowles Family owned a substantial amount of property in this vicinity and the homes of various members were located along State Highway. Freeman Elsworth Knowles (b. May 9, 1861; d. September 9, 1925), the son of Freeman and Joanna Smith Knowles, was the grandson of Freeman and Martha Mayo Knowles who built the federal house at 1220 State Highway which was inherited by his uncle, Josiah M. Knowles.

Freeman Elsworth Knowles married Nettie Walker. They had three children: Henry Elsworth Knowles (b. 1885), George Davis Knowles (b. 1890) and Winfred James Knowles (b. 1892). Although she had no formal training,

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES X See continuation sheet.

 Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places;
If checked, see attached National Register Criteria Statement form.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued)

Nettie Walker Knowles functioned as a local midwife who assisted local physicians at childbirth. She also worked as a caretaker in "confinement cases," staying 2 weeks in the homes of newly-delivered mothers to attend them and keep house for the rest of the family. Her fee was \$15 per week.

In 1924, when her husband became ill, Nettie Knowles built the 1-story addition on the south elevation of the house so that she would have room to take women and infants into her home. After her husband died in 1925, Nettie Knowles also used a downstairs bedroom as a semi-private room allowing her to accommodate a total of three mothers. Typically, women and infants stayed two weeks after delivery. Cape Cod Hospital opened in 1919, but on the Lower Cape, many women continued to have their children at home or at Mrs. Knowles' "lying-in hospital." Nettie Knowles reputedly assisted in the births of 62 children between 1907 and her death in 1933.

In 1938, Winfred J. Knowles and the children and wife of Henry E. Knowles sold the homestead of Freeman and Nettie Knowles to George D. Knowles of Orleans, the surviving sibling of Winfred Knowles.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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House files 1150 and 1220 State Highway, Eastham Historical Society Archives.

Quinn, Howard. Transcript of Oral History Tape, Eastham Historical Society Archives.

Roger, Josiah, Knowles, Elijah and Kinsman, Simeon. Map of the Town of Eastham, 1794.

*Walker, George F. Atlas of Barnstable County. Boston: George F. Walker & Co., 1880.

* . Atlas of Barnstable County. Boston Walker Lithographer and Publishing Co., 1908.

*Wallings, Henry F. Map of Eastham. Boston: D. R. Smith Co., 1858.